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7. Brazil	For inaugurating the exclusive Indian Exhibition in Sau Paulo. (3-7 Nov., 96)
8. USA	Attended the Meeting of Indo-US Commercial Alliance (15-18 Oct., 1996).
	For taking a meeting of the representatives of the PSUs/ Boards of the Ministry of Commerce on 8th Nov., 1996.
9. Singapore	First Ministerial Conference of World Trade organisation (9-13 Dec., 96).
10 Kazakhastan	To inaugurate the exhibition organised by ITPO 8th to 13th October, 1996.
11. Bulgaria	Agreement signed on Trade and Economic co-operation with Bulgaria at New Delhi on 4.12.96.
12. Kenya	For attending Made in India Show arranged by Confederation of Indian Industries at Naurobi from 14th to 16th August, 1996.

(e) and (f). Economic cooperation with other countris has been the constant endeavor of the Government. In a fast integrating world it is important to establish partnerships with others countries so that India can derive economic advantage in its efforts at maximising exports and developing the economy. Strong links have been established both at the bilateral level with various countries, as well as at the multilateral level and with important groupings like the Europeal Union, ASEAN etc. SAPTA is fast becomings as important instrument for liberalising trade within the SAARC region. Apart from this, the govt. has cleared 380 proposals involving foreign investment valued at around US $ 5 billion.

Strike in HEC

4223. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers of Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi (HEC) struck work w.e.f. October 27, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the issue?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The workers of Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC) Ranchi struck work on 17.10.1996 for one day to press their demand for immediate wage revision. Wage revision in a company is dependent on generation of internal resources to meet the extra burden.

Guarantee for Foreign Investment

4224. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has made a statement that Government may not be a guarantee for any foreign investment in any big projects including in power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the State Electricity Boards are financially very weak and cannot invite foreign investment on their guarantee; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Finance Minister has said that no further Government of India Counter Guarantees will be extended to any Power Project beyond the eight initial, CCFI-approved Power Projects.

(c) and (d). The foreign investors have generally not viewed the State Electricity Boards as credible risk for investment. The Government is therefore encouraging Reform and Restructuring of State Elecricity Boards with a view to improving their financial strength.

[Translation]

Computerisation of Banks in M.P.

4225. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of banks located in Madhya Pradesh in which "Remote Computer Lock-in Terminal" facility has been started, branch-wise;

(b) whether the said facility is likely to affect employment opportunities in the banks; and

(c) the details thereof and the remedial steps taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

India's Share in World Trade

4226. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state India's share in world trade in 1990 and 1995?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH) : As per available data from WTO, India's share in world merchandise trade increased from 0.60% in 1990 to 0.64% in 1995.